

2/12/2003

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conclude

mentioned above; purifying it, and subjecting it to steps involving at least a reducing agent, an ionic detergent and/or a neutral detergent in conditions leading to a glycoprotein having said properties.

Please add the following as the brief description of the figure section on page 5, after line 20:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURE

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The figure represents the SDS PAGE analysis under reducing conditions obtained with a recombinantly produced gp160 that was purified and treated to make trimers (lanes 3-4) compared to gp160 dimers (lane 2), monomers (lane 5 and 6), and combination of dimers, trimers, and tetramers (lane 7).

In the claims:

Please amend claims 11, 13 and 16-19 as follows:

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11. (Amended) A composition comprising a purified trimer of HIV gp160, wherein the trimer:
- a) binds to CD4;
 - b) binds to an anti-gp120 antibody capable of neutralizing HIV infection of cells *in vitro*;
 - c) binds to an anti-gp41 antibody; and
 - d) has no inter-chain disulfide bridges.

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13. (Amended) A composition comprising a trimer of HIV gp160 wherein all or a portion of the gp160 transmembrane region is deleted, and were the trimer:
- e) binds to CD4;
 - f) binds to an anti-gp120 antibody capable of neutralizing HIV infection of cells *in vitro*;
 - g) binds to an anti-gp41 antibody; and
 - h) has no inter-chain disulfide bridges.

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16. (Amended) The composition of any one of claims 11 - 13 further comprising an adjuvant.
17. (Amended) The composition according to claim 16 wherein the trimer is the only HIV surface antigen in the composition.
18. (Amended) A method of producing the trimer according to any one of claims 11 - 12, the method comprising, in order:
- a) expressing gp160;
 - b) purifying the gp160;
 - c) contacting the gp160 with a reducing agent;